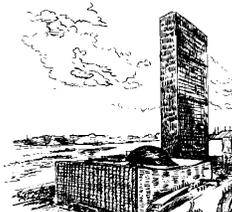


## Part 8



# Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies

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## Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Established in 1945 in Rome, FAO is the UN specialized agency that provides data and expertise in the fields of agriculture (including plant and animal genetic resources), fisheries, forestry, and food-related issues. FAO is the only source of comprehensive data for all agricultural commodities, forestry and fishery products, and related ecosystems.

FAO was established to promote enhanced food security (through improved nutrition and expanded production and distribution of food and agricultural products) and to improve the lives of rural populations. Its in-depth institutional knowledge of farming and natural resources and its response capability in pest control emergencies are key assets for U.S. agricultural, economic, and humanitarian interests.

FAO develops international standards and promotes measures to ensure food safety and quality and safe agricultural chemical use. FAO also helps protect world agriculture and consumers through training and field disease control programs aimed at eradicating plant and animal diseases and pests, and through stewardship of genetic diversity. Of particular importance are the joint FAO/World Health Organization Codex Alimentarius Commission, the revised International Plant Protection Convention, control of international plagues such as desert locusts, and negotiations to revise the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

FAO, in conjunction with the UN Environment Program (UNEP), is responsible for implementation of the recently concluded Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC).

FAO is the international body with sufficient expertise, membership, and mandate to help resolve global fisheries problems, such as overfishing. The FAO has demonstrated its ability to provide leadership, through its development of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in 1995 and, in 1999, through the development of “global plans of action” for conservation and management of sharks, and to solve widespread problems

related to fishing overcapacity and the incidental catch of seabirds in long-line fisheries.

In the aftermath of natural disasters and other crises, FAO is the agency within the UN system that provides appropriate seeds and tools to farming communities to help reestablish agricultural production.

FAO's highest policy-making body, the biennial Conference, is composed of all 180 FAO member states plus the European Community, which is a member organization. The Conference approves FAO's program and policy objectives, and adopts its program of work and budget. Jacques Diouf (Senegal), first elected Director General in 1993, was re-elected for a second six-year term at the November 1999 Conference and will serve through December 2006. A 49-member Council (of which the United States is a member) is elected by the Conference and serves as the interim governing body.

FAO derives its operating funds from its regular program budget, funded through the assessed contributions of its members, and from extra-budgetary activities carried out with other international organizations, financial institutions, and bilateral trust fund donors. FAO's regular program of work and budget operates on a biennial cycle and is approved by the FAO Conference. Regular program support results from assessed contributions, based on the UN assessment scale. At 25 percent, the United States was assessed \$80,972,500 for calendar year 1999. U.S. arrears to the FAO total over \$105 million.

The United States and other major contributors continue to encourage FAO to be more active in the system-wide UN reform process and more transparent in its decision-making. The United States also continues to seek additional reforms within the organization to improve governance and to further streamline its activities. The Strategic Framework, the first ever for FAO, will guide the organization for the period 2000-2015. It calls for more efficient use of scarce resources, contains criteria for priority-setting, and specifies FAO's comparative advantage.

The United States played a major role in the successful conclusion of the 1998 Rotterdam Convention restricting the trade of dangerous chemicals. It has been signed so far by 60 countries and one regional economic organization and will enter into force once it has been ratified by at least 50 countries. The Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure will require that certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides, which have been banned or severely restricted, are not exported unless the importing country explicitly agreed to receive them. FAO and UNEP, working in close cooperation, provide the interim Secretariat of the Convention.

The United States also played a leadership role in the development of the three significant plans of action on shark conservation, reduction of the

number of seabirds caught in longline fishing, and management of fishing capacity that have been handled by FAO's Fisheries Department. The United States supports FAO efforts to eliminate the threat posed to sustainable fisheries by illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing through development of another international plan of action.

The United States continued to serve on the Finance Committee to press for good governance. In 1999, the FAO Conference approved a zero nominal growth budget of \$650 million for the 2000–2001 biennium. This was a key U.S. goal.

### **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

The IAEA serves a critical role in U.S. nuclear nonproliferation policy. Throughout its system of international safeguards, the IAEA provides assurance that nuclear materials under safeguards are used exclusively for peaceful purposes. There are 130 member states of the IAEA. The 35–member Board of Governors is responsible for providing overall direction and guidance to the Agency's policies and program implementation. The United States holds a *de facto* permanent seat on the Board. The Board meets in March, June, September, and December. The General Conference is held in September. It consists of all members and carries out general oversight of the Agency's work. At the end of 1999, the Secretariat had a total of 681 staff in professional posts subject to geographical distribution, of which the United States held 112, which is 16.4 percent of the total. The fourth Director General of the IAEA, Mohamed El-Baradei (Egypt), assumed office on December 1, 1997.

In the safeguards field, states continued to negotiate Additional Protocols with the IAEA, but the pace of acceptance slowed considerably. Forty–six additional protocols were complete at the end of 1999, an increase of eight during the year. Nine had been ratified or were provisionally in force. These agreements, when brought into force and implemented, will significantly enhance the Agency's ability to detect undeclared nuclear activities in those states. IAEA safeguards implementation efforts continued at a high tempo. In 1999, the IAEA carried out 2,482 inspections at 583 facilities in 68 states. The United States continued its important extrabudgetary contribution to the Agency's safeguards efforts, providing both equipment and expertise to strengthen the safeguards system. For example, the United States contributed the following: \$9.3 million through the U.S. Program of Technical Assistance to Safeguards, which conducted a wide range of technical projects in support of effective safeguards implementation; \$4 million for safeguards equipment to cushion the impact of shortfalls in the IAEA's regular budget; substantial cost–free analysis of IAEA safeguards samples; several cost–free experts to assist the IAEA in installing new equipment and to train IAEA

staff to utilize new technologies and advanced analytical techniques; and other funding and support. The United States also accepted safeguards inspections under its voluntary safeguards agreement at four facilities, three of which store fissile material declared excess to defense needs and one of which is downblending highly enriched uranium declared excess to defense needs.

U.S. government agencies continued to support and participate in IAEA nuclear safety activities in 1999. Many of these activities complemented ongoing bilateral nuclear safety assistance activities and were in support of existing Group of 7 policies and objectives. (The Group of 7 consists of the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom.) Through a \$750,000 extrabudgetary contribution to nuclear safety activities, the United States supported ongoing programs, including work under the Extrabudgetary Program on the Safety of Nuclear Installations in Southeast Asia, Pacific, and Far East countries, the Graphite Moderated Reactor Accident Analysis project, and meetings of the Light Water Moderated Reactor Regulators Forum. The United States also chaired the IAEA International Conference on the Strengthening of Nuclear Safety in Eastern Europe that reviewed 10 years of assistance and made recommendations for the future. In 1999, the IAEA established three meetings to prepare this project and made a contribution to help begin work. The United States also continued its support for nuclear safety services offered by the Department of Nuclear Safety (DNS) by providing experts to participate in the Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) and International Peer Review Service of Probabilistic Safety Assessments teams in various countries. In support of the OSART program, the United States requested that DNS conduct an OSART review of the North Anna nuclear power plant in 2000; this will be the fourth OSART mission held in the United States. In support of the IAEA's Year 2000 (Y2K) computer preparations, the United States contributed a cost-free expert to help implement a program to prepare member states for the Y2K rollover at their nuclear power plants. The United States provided two additional cost-free experts, in operational safety and in radiation protection.

The U.S. Government, as the leading donor to the Technical Cooperation (TC) program, contributed \$18.25 million of the approximately \$64 million allocated to the TC Fund in 1999. The United States hosted three regional workshops in 1999 to assist member states in preparing well-designed project requests. The United States continues to play a lead role in providing advice and assistance to the IAEA to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the TC program. The first year of the new project cycle was 1999 and marked an increased number of so-called "model

projects” and early achievement of several objectives of the TC Department’s strategic goals.

In addition to its routine inspection activities, the IAEA also carried out important nonproliferation functions in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) in 1999. On the basis of a decision by the Board following a request of the UN Security Council in 1994, the IAEA continued to maintain continuous inspections in the Yongbyon area in the DPRK in order to monitor the freeze on the DPRK’s graphite moderated reactors and related facilities. Due to Iraq’s intransigence toward the UN inspection regime, the IAEA was unable to conduct any inspections in Iraq in 1999. Consequently, the IAEA cannot state with any certainty as to the existence or nonexistence of nuclear capabilities in Iraq.

The U.S. regular assessment is approximately 25 percent of the IAEA’s total resources from assessments and amounted to approximately \$55 million in 1999. The United States remained the largest single contributor of voluntary support to the IAEA. The U.S. extrabudgetary contribution of \$40 million went to support the following: the Technical Cooperation Fund, the U.S. program of technical assistance to safeguards, cost-free experts, in-country technical projects, U.S.-hosted training courses and fellowships, nuclear safety projects, and application of safeguards on nuclear material declared excess to defense needs in the United States. With the steady increase in IAEA responsibilities, key programs including safeguards are consistently underfunded and the IAEA is increasingly reliant on voluntary contributions.

## **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**

The ICAO, established in 1944 and a UN specialized agency since 1947, fosters the safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation. ICAO sets international standards and recommended practices for civil aviation, thus ensuring its safety and security worldwide, and provides technical expertise for countries in matters of air safety and security. Because the United States dominates civil aviation fields of research, safety and security innovations, and aviation manufacturing and transport, both the public and private sectors in the United States have great interest in the work of ICAO. In 1999, the membership of ICAO was 185 states. Of the 288 professional staff of ICAO, 18 were U.S. citizens.

During 1999, the United States worked with ICAO on the development of Stage 4 airplane noise standards that will be equitable for all regions and countries. During calendar year 2000, the United States intends to initiate a proceeding under Article 84 of the Chicago Convention challenging

a European Union airplane noise regulation (“the hushkit regulation”) that discriminates against U.S. interests.

The United States was very pleased with the results of the International Conference on Air Law held at ICAO in Montreal May 10–28. The Conference produced the new Montreal Convention that is intended to replace the 1929 Warsaw Convention on liability for airline accidents. The new convention was opened for signature at Montreal, Canada, on May 28, and was signed on that date by 52 countries. Since the Convention was opened for signature, a 53<sup>rd</sup> country has signed the Convention. The Departments of Transportation and State have solicited comments on the Convention from a number of interested organizations. The comments received have been quite favorable. Subsequently, the Minutes of the Conference were provided to these organizations for review and further input on the decision to seek the Senate’s advice and consent for ratification.

During 1999, ICAO’s Y2K (year 2000 computer problem) program was implemented successfully, and substantially assisted member states in overcoming Y2K computer problems. ICAO worked closely with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to obtain and disseminate information on Y2K compliance for all countries. In order to facilitate public access to air safety information, ICAO’s Y2K compliance data was published on the FAA’s website.

The ICAO Assembly, the senior policy-making body which meets once every three years, convened in September 1998. Important initiatives were advanced at the Assembly on a number of aviation safety and security matters. Most important among them is the adoption of an enhanced and more effective Universal Safety Audit Program, providing for regular, mandatory, systematic, and harmonized aviation safety audits of all member states. This program calls for the release of audit reports with greater transparency and increased disclosure, as well as assistance to member states in meeting their obligations to oversee commercial air transport operations. During 1999, 49 countries, including the United States, were audited under the program and final audit reports were issued for 16 countries.

The ICAO Assembly also adopted a U.S.–initiated resolution calling for strengthened trade controls over Man–Portable Air Defense Systems which could pose a security threat to civil aviation.

During 1999, ICAO continued to work toward the implementation of the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), an advanced satellite navigation system using the U.S. Global Positioning System and the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System for the use of civil aviation. The Assembly adopted a Charter on the Rights and Obligations of States Relat-

ing to GNSS Services. Through the ICAO Committee on Aviation and Environmental Protection, ICAO also continued its work on measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from aviation.

The ICAO Assembly also adopted a resolution initiated by the United States which maintains the reform momentum begun at the 1995 Assembly and requires action on streamlining, reducing administrative costs, consolidating regional offices, and other areas.

ICAO's budget for 1999 was \$47.44 million, of which the United States assessed share for the regular budget, at 25 percent, was \$11.514 million. This amount was paid in November. The United States also was assessed \$298,000 for its share of costs of the ICAO Joint Financing Program, which manages air navigation services in the North Atlantic, bringing the total U.S. payment in 1999 to \$11.82 million. The U.S. Government provided additional financial and in-kind resources for the Safety Oversight and Aviation Security Programs of ICAO.

## **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**

IFAD has a mandate unique among multilateral lending institutions, in that it focuses exclusively on increasing food production, improving living conditions, and enhancing rural incomes in developing countries through loans and grants for projects specifically benefiting the rural poor. IFAD's target groups are small farmers, the rural landless, nomadic pastoralists, fisherfolk, indigenous people, and poor rural women. The bulk of IFAD's resources are made available to low-income countries at very low interest rates, repayable over 40 years.

IFAD is funded through donor contributions to periodic replenishments and from investment and interest income. The United States has been contributing \$5 million per year over six years to the Fourth Replenishment, which began in 1997. Since its establishment in 1977, IFAD has financed 548 projects in 114 countries, to which it has committed \$6.5 billion in grants and loans. IFAD-funded projects have assisted 49 million poor rural households or approximately 263 million people. Seventy percent of IFAD's projects have benefited African and Asian countries, while Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, and Central and Eastern Europe have been the beneficiaries of the remaining 30 percent. In 1999, IFAD provided 30 loans valued at \$433 million.

IFAD's highest authority is its Governing Council on which all 161 member states are represented. The fund's current operations are overseen by the Executive Board, which consists of 18 members, including the United States. IFAD's President serves as Executive Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the fund. Under the leadership of second-term President Fawzi H. Al-Sultan (Kuwait), IFAD has pursued a vigorous

reform agenda. Between 1993 and 1996, IFAD's administrative budget decreased by 30 percent and has since remained constant in real terms. IFAD provides worldwide coverage with only 131 professional staff.

IFAD plays a leadership role in international efforts to promote the sustainable management of dry land areas in Africa and in other developing regions affected by the serious threat of desertification. IFAD also has played a pioneering role in the provision of microcredit and other financial services to the rural poor, and remains committed to targeting 30 percent of its loan portfolio each year (approximately \$125 million) to the world's poorest people. IFAD has proven effective in advancing its development agenda in agricultural projects, grassroots democracy, and women's and environmental issues at relatively low cost, and in areas of the world where it is difficult for the U.S. Government to work.

## **International Labor Organization (ILO)**

The ILO, founded in 1919, is the only tripartite organization in the UN system. Based in Geneva, it has 174 member countries represented by governments, workers, and employers. The ILO is the only international agency in which the private sector participates fully with government.

The ILO's mandate is to advance humane conditions of labor and social stability around the world by promoting democracy and human rights, employment and the alleviation of poverty, and equality and protection of working people. The ILO seeks to define common standards of decency applying to workers among nations involved in international trade. American workers and business can compete fairly if international labor standards help level the playing field. With the ILO's tripartite system, U.S. business and workers benefit by participating in the development of international labor standards that affect their operations.

As the government of one of 10 countries of "chief industrial importance," the U.S. Government has a permanent seat on the ILO's 56-member Governing Body. In addition, an American worker (from the AFL-CIO) and an American employer (from the U.S. Council for International Business) have each won election to seats on the Governing Body. They speak and vote independently of the U.S. Government.

Government, worker, and employer delegations from the United States actively participated in Governing Body meetings in March and November, and in the 87<sup>th</sup> International Labor Conference in June.

U.S. delegations also participated in three sectoral meetings during 1999: Voluntary Initiatives Affecting Training and Education on Safety, Health and Environment in the Chemical Industries; a Tripartite Meeting on Social and Labor Issues in Small-Scale Mines; and a Meeting of Experts on Labor Inspection and Child Labor.

During 1999, consideration of an ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, workers' rights issues, ILO reform, and a possible new ILO Convention dominated much of the attention of the Governing Body and the June Conference. Progress toward these objectives was as follows:

- The Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor was adopted by the ILO Conference in June after a strong show of U.S. interest by President Clinton during his participation in the Conference. This convention has found widespread support both in the United States and internationally. After speedy consideration, the Senate gave advice and consent to ratification in November, and President Clinton signed the instrument of ratification on December 2. The United States was the third country to ratify the Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. Over 40 countries are now in the process of ratifying this convention.
- Based on thorough study, ILO supervisory bodies (Governing Body, Governing Body Committee on Freedom of Association, Independent Committee of Experts, and the ILO Conference Committee on the Application of Standards) in 1999 highlighted serious abuses of trade union and other fundamental rights in Burma and Colombia. In response to the recommendations of a Special Commission of Inquiry, the ILO Conference decided to exclude Burma from ILO activities, other than those specifically directed at rectifying Burmese practices on forced labor. In regard to violation of workers' rights in Colombia, action by the ILO Governing Body proved unnecessary after an agreement was reached between the Government of Colombia and Colombian trade unions on procedures for investigation of violations of workers' rights in that country. In each case, the United States strongly supported the consensus endorsing these steps.
- The Director General of the ILO, Juan Somavia (Chile), moved swiftly to outline a reform program for the ILO. This program is centered on four strategic objectives. Under this program, all ILO activities are directed toward achieving those objectives. Further demonstrating the new Director General's commitment to reform, the secretariat submitted a zero nominal growth budget to the Governing Body in November and it was approved by consensus.

- A discussion of a possible convention and/or recommendation concerning contract labor with the U.S.—supported goal of providing the same level of protection regarding wages, hours, and terms and conditions of work for “contract” workers as “employees” in an enterprise foundered over the definition of “contract labor.” After a panel of experts reexamines this issue, the ILO plans to revisit this in 2000 or 2001.

The United States sees the ILO as an important vehicle with which to highlight and attack exploitative child labor, a major U.S. priority. In 1999, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$30 million to support the ILO’s “International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor.” This followed a similar appropriation of \$15 million in 1998, for fiscal year 1999. ILO programs in Bangladesh and Pakistan are removing children from industries and placing them in schools and rehabilitation centers. An ILO program in Brazil removes children from shoe factories. Other ILO child labor programs will withdraw children in Central America from hazardous work such as fireworks production.

The new UN Staff College, located at the ILO Training Center in Turin, Italy, completed its second full year of operation in 1999. A self-funding institution, the UN Staff College seeks to contribute to the ongoing process of system-wide UN reform through short, focused training in areas such as management within existing resources.

The U.S. assessment for the ILO in calendar year 1999 was 85 million Swiss francs, or approximately \$54 million.

## **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**

The IMO’s principal objectives are to foster cooperation among governments on technical matters affecting international shipping, to achieve the highest practicable standards for maritime safety, and to prevent marine pollution. The IMO also develops conventions and treaties concerning international shipping, facilitates international maritime affairs, and provides technical assistance in maritime matters to developing countries. The IMO tracks UN Conference on Environment and Development and Kyoto Climate Change–related issues in the Marine Environment Protection Committee, one of its major work programs.

The IMO’s membership in 1999 increased to 157 with the acceptance of Tonga. “Hong Kong, China” and Macao continue as associate members. The IMO’s membership encompasses 98.6 percent of world shipping tonnage, and its major treaty instruments have attained almost universal coverage with 33 of 40 IMO treaty instruments currently in force.

The IMO adopted its second consecutive zero nominal growth budget during its 21<sup>st</sup> Assembly that was held November 15–25. During 1998–1999, the IMO reorganized its internal audit and evaluation functions and revised its work program so that the budget clearly reflected the costs associated with elements of the programs. Further reforms are included in the IMO’s proposed new business plan that will strengthen its revenue raising activities and improve the identification and recovery of the organization’s relevant program costs in its publication activities. The new IMO business plan was praised as a model for the UN Common System. Greater transparency was achieved by the IMO in the 1998–1999 biennium, an accomplishment which will be further refined in the 2000–2001 biennium.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Assembly adopted 25 resolutions relating to maritime safety and maritime environmental protection. The Assembly accepted all U.S. recommendations pertaining to these resolutions, including measures that will regulate anti-fouling systems used on ships, require safety certification of general cargo ships and mobile offshore drilling units, add procedures for the consistent enforcement of the international safety management code by port states, and improve existing guidance on staffing of ships. The Assembly also authorized convening of a diplomatic conference to draft a “Bunkers Convention” that would fill the last remaining gap in the operation of a comprehensive international regime establishing liability rules and fair compensation in connection with vessel-sourced pollution events.

As a major participant in international maritime trade, the United States reaps great benefits from the work of the IMO while paying only about four percent of its assessed budget (about \$1.3 million yearly). Assessments are based chiefly on registered shipping tonnage, with Panama and Liberia, as major open registry countries, among the most important contributors. The United States has no arrearages of IMO assessments.

## **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

The IMF was established to promote international monetary cooperation, to foster economic growth and high levels of employment, and to provide temporary financial assistance under adequate safeguards to members experiencing balance of payments difficulties. The IMF has a special representative at the United Nations and a long-standing cooperative relationship with the United Nations. The IMF has a mandate to exercise firm surveillance over the exchange rate policies of its members in order to oversee the international monetary system and ensure its effective operation. The IMF also provides technical advice to member states.

In 1999, the IMF was a major participant in efforts to reform and strengthen the international financial system. These efforts included increasing transparency, developing international standards, and improving vulnerability assessment. The IMF also more explicitly took into account the impact of its structural adjustments on the poorest members of society, and was a leading supporter of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative.

## **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**

The principal objective of the ITU is the promotion of international cooperation for the use of telecommunications. Established in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union, the ITU now serves as a forum where governments and the private telecommunications sector coordinate on frequency spectrum issues affecting the establishment and operation of telecommunication networks and services. Dealing with technical issues of standardization and the allocation of frequency spectrum, the work of the ITU has important commercial consequences. There are now 189 member countries in the ITU. Plenipotentiary Conferences, to which all ITU members are invited, are held every four years. The next Conference will be held in the year 2002.

**ITU Council.** The 46-member ITU Council, which serves as the governing body of the Union Plenipotentiary Conferences, held its annual meeting in Geneva June 14–25. This was the first meeting for ITU's newly elected Secretary General Yoshio Utsumi (Japan), his deputy Roberto Blois (Brazil), and the heads of the standardization and development bureaus. The director of the radio bureau was reelected.

Secretary General Utsumi noted five challenges facing the ITU: enlarging membership; making the standardization activities of the union more effective; addressing the Internet age with new products and services for the union's members; shifting telecommunication development toward multimedia capacity building; and adapting the ITU's structure to reflect the emerging realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Two decisions adopted during the second week of the Council represented significant successes by the United States, focusing on the critical issues involved in the implementation of cost recovery for the processing of satellite network coordination and notifications. The first decision, Council Decision 482, instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau to provide an annual management report to the Council on the satellite network coordination and notification processing; asks the ITU external auditor to provide an annual financial and management report on the costs and activities associated with those selected cost categories that serve as the basis for calculating the fee schedule for notification submitted to the Radiocommunication Bureau after November 7, 1998; and

instructs the Secretary General to provide the 2000 session of the Council with a detailed description of the methodology used in calculating the fee schedule.

The second relevant decision involves improvements to the satellite Network Notification Process. The decision (contained in Council document 'Improvements to the satellite Network Notification Process,' C99/89) instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau to complete specific improvements in computer software that are defined in the 1999 ITU–Radiocommunication (ITU–R) Operational Plan and also to establish effective means for enabling members to exchange information with the Bureau regarding these software improvements activities; instructs the ITU–R and ITU–Development to conduct joint workshops that will assist those developing countries that are interested in satellite coordination/notification; and asks administrations to limit the information submitted to the Radiocommunications Bureau to only the minimum information as defined in the Radio Regulations.

The United States was a member of a small *ad hoc* group at the Council meeting that drafted a resolution to establish a working group on the review and improvement of the management, functioning, and structure of the ITU. This Working Group on Reform (WGR) was established pursuant to Resolution 74 passed at the ITU's 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference.

The Department of State has hosted several public meetings on ITU reform to give the private sector and other interested stakeholders an opportunity to share their views on ITU reform. These views will be useful in formulating the official U.S. Government position on ITU reform.

Five WGR meetings have been scheduled for the period leading up to the 2002 Plenipotentiary Conference. The first such meeting was held in Geneva on December 15–17, 1999.

**World Radiocommunications Conference.** The biennial World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC) will be held May 8–June 2, 2000, in Istanbul. Issues covered by the WRC include continuation of the process of simplification of the Radio Regulations, allocation of additional radio spectrum for new commercial satellite systems, revision of the maritime mobile and aeronautical mobile regulations, and revision of the coordination procedures for high frequency broadcasting. This includes the provision for digital service and changes to the coordination procedures for satellite systems to discourage hoarding satellite orbital slots. Of particular importance to the United States is the protection of spectrum used by the Global Positioning System (GPS) from any new allocations that could cause interference with GPS operations and a new allocation for GPS for use in civil aviation applications.

## **International Trade Center (ITC)**

The ITC is the focal point of the United Nations for technical cooperation in trade promotion. A joint subsidiary organ of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization (WTO), the ITC works with developing countries and economies in transition—especially their business sectors—to set up effective trade promotion programs for expanding their exports and improving their import operations. Headquarters operations are funded jointly by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the WTO. Technical cooperation programs are funded by the UN Development Program (UNDP) and by voluntary contributions from governments and organizations. ITC headquarters are in Geneva.

Since 1994 the ITC has been involved in a program to better focus the Center's work program to assist the neediest countries, primarily in Africa. One product of the ITC's orientation is the WTO/UNCTAD/ITC Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Program in Selected Least-Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP). JITAP was launched in March 1998 and now supports projects in Tunisia and seven sub-Saharan countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. Thirteen donors contribute to its funding, which currently amounts to \$10 million. In addition, the ITC is responsible for supporting an administrative unit that coordinates the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries, which was established by the High-Level Meeting of the WTO, UNCTAD, ITC, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and the UN Development Program in late 1997.

## **UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

The election of career Japanese diplomat Koichiro Matsuura as Director General to succeed Spanish biochemist Federico Mayor Zaragoza was the major development at UNESCO during 1999. Mayor had served since 1987.

The United States maintains official observer status at UNESCO and continues to believe that UNESCO has largely addressed the issues that led to U.S. withdrawal from the organization in 1984. Budget issues, however, impeded reentry during 1999. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright summed up current U.S. Government policy toward UNESCO in a farewell letter to outgoing Director General Zaragoza: "UNESCO is an organization whose values we share, whose work we encourage, and whose ranks we expect to rejoin."

The overall goal of U.S. participation in UNESCO's activities during 1999 was to work, in a manner consistent with observer status, to protect

and promote U.S. interests in the organization. As a nonmember state, the United States paid no assessed contribution, but provided approximately \$2.25 million in voluntary contributions to selected UNESCO programs. These priority programs seek to:

- promote and vigorously defend the free flow of ideas;
- open access to education for all;
- build understanding of democratic principles and practice;
- transfer scientific knowledge and construct infrastructures necessary to that end; and
- protect the cultural and natural heritage.

During 1999, the United States attended the 156<sup>th</sup> and 157<sup>th</sup> sessions of the UNESCO Executive Board, the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference, the World Conference on Science, and a number of other important UNESCO meetings.

The 30<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference was the first in the organization's history to adopt a budget at exactly the same level as the previous biennium (zero nominal growth). The 156<sup>th</sup> Executive Board took the significant and potentially far-reaching reform action of prohibiting its members from entering into any contractual relationship with UNESCO "until 18 months have elapsed from the date of cessation of their representative functions."

The President of the National Academy of Sciences, three American Nobel Laureates, the Board Chair of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and other prominent U.S. scientists and officials represented the United States at the World Conference on Science (Budapest, June 26–July 1).

The Conference provided an occasion to project U.S. values and U.S. approaches to key scientific issues, especially those of global import; to emphasize the role of free inquiry and fundamental research; to promote the concept of the global citizen–scientist; to emphasize the need for sound primary and secondary science education; and to support access to careers in science for women and underrepresented groups worldwide.

The United States played a significant role also in the work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Return of Cultural Property, and the World Heritage Committee (WHC). At the third Extraordinary Session of the WHC (Paris, July 12), the United States—as a state party to the Convention—helped broker a resolution of a controversial issue related to uranium mining in the Kakadu National Park (Australia). The United States worked behind the scenes to help the WHC maintain respect for national sover-

eignty and the Convention's integrity, while at the same time encouraging the Government of Australia to take necessary measures to ensure the protection of the national park. It also participated actively in the Committee's 23<sup>rd</sup> regular session in Marrakech.

Total membership grew to 188 sovereign states during 1999 with the accession of the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia to membership.

## **Universal Postal Union (UPU)**

The UPU, with headquarters in Bern, Switzerland, exists to facilitate international communications through the efficient operations of postal services across borders. The United States has been a member of the UPU since its founding (as the General Postal Union) in 1874. The UPU now has 189 member states.

During 1999, U.S. delegations attended the UPU Postal Congress (Beijing, China), three meetings of the 40-member Postal Operations Council (in Beijing and Bern), two meetings of the 41-member Council of Administration (in Beijing and Bern), and one meeting of the newly formed High Level Group on the Future Development of the UPU. Representatives of the U.S. Postal Service also led and participated in numerous UPU working groups during the year, sharing U.S. expertise on postal issues with other countries.

The UPU Council of Administration approved a budget for 2000 of 34.6 million Swiss francs (approximately \$21.8 million). This amount represented the fourth year of zero nominal growth (ZNG) in the organization's budget. The United States, which contributes 5.5 percent of the UPU's regular budget, strongly supported a ZNG budget.

**The Beijing Congress.** The UPU Congress meets every five years to review and revise its conventions, regulations, and other agreements. In August and September of 1999 the UPU Congress met in Beijing.

Legislation passed by the U.S. Congress in 1998 had given the Department of State primary responsibility for U.S. participation in the UPU. Previously, this had been the responsibility of the U.S. Postal Service. In implementation of this role, Ambassador E. Michael Southwick led the U.S. delegation at the Beijing Congress and strongly promoted reform in the UPU, including openness, transparency, and recognition by the UPU of the vast and significant changes under way in international communications and in the postal and delivery sectors.

As part of its effort to broaden stakeholder representation at the UPU, the Department of State included private sector representatives on the U.S. delegation to the Beijing Congress. It was the first time that private sector

individuals had been included on a U.S. delegation to the UPU, and the U.S. delegation was the only one in Beijing to be so constituted.

In response to a U.S. proposal to establish a reform process, the Beijing Congress agreed to set up a High Level Working Group on the Future Development of the UPU to consider UPU reform and report back to the UPU's Council of Administration in 2001. The High Level Group (made up of 24 UPU member states) met for the first time in December 1999 in Bern. In contrast to the often contentious atmosphere of the Beijing Congress on reform, the December meeting in Bern was productive and reflected a greater sense among virtually all participants of the inevitability of change in the postal sector and of the need for UPU reform.

The Beijing Congress also approved a U.S. proposal to create a new Advisory Group that would permit private sector stakeholders in the postal business to share their views with UPU staff and member states. The Congress reelected Thomas E. Leavey (U.S.) to a second five-year term as Director General. The United States was elected to five-year terms on the Postal Operations Council and the Council of Administration, as well as to a seat on the new High Level Group. The Congress approved the Beijing Postal Strategy to govern general policy over the next five years. The Beijing Congress also approved a compromise, transitional two-tier "terminal dues" arrangement governing how much one country reimburses another for postal delivery services. The agreement provides for lower rates to developing countries and establishes a special fund for them to improve quality of service. The U.S. and other delegations made clear their view that the terminal dues arrangement should eventually move to a nondiscriminatory cost-based system.

## **World Bank Group**

The World Bank Group (the Bank) is composed of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), established in 1945, International Development Association (IDA), established in 1960, International Finance Corporation (IFC), established in 1956, and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), established in 1988. From their creation through June 30, 1999, the IBRD and IDA have provided more than \$454 billion in loans, either at near-commercial terms (IBRD) or at concessional terms (IDA), for development projects and to support economic reform in developing countries. During the Bank's 1999 fiscal year (ending June 30), 181 nations were IBRD members, 160 belonged to the IDA, 174 were members of the IFC, and 149 were members of MIGA. The United States remains the Bank's largest shareholder, owning 17 percent of shares in the IBRD, 15 percent of IDA, 24 percent of the IFC, and 16 percent of MIGA.

Cooperation between the Bank and the United Nations has been in place since the founding of the two organizations and focuses on economic and social areas of mutual concern such as reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development, and investing in people. James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank since 1996, has emphasized improved cooperation as part of broad reform programs at the Bank and the United Nations. The Bank has links with the United Nations at the policy-making level in the work of the General Assembly and its committees and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). ECOSOC members recently participated in an exchange of dialogue on development issues with the Bank's Executive Directors and such bodies as the Administrative Committee on Coordination. At the executive level, the Bank President and the Secretary General (and heads of UN programs, specialized agencies, and commissions) engage in an ongoing dialogue on issues such as poverty eradication, capacity building in Africa, humanitarian and post-conflict issues, human rights, HIV/AIDS, gender issues and women and development, governance and civil society, and financing for development.

At the institutional level, the two organizations have been working together to improve cooperation at the country level through better policy coordination, project implementation, cofinancing, and aid coordination. The Bank's proposed establishment of the Global Trust Fund for grant technical assistance has led to closer collaboration with the UN Development Program to define the respective, complementary roles of the Bank and the United Nations in development. The Bank is one of six cosponsors of the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, contributing over \$800 million so far in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The Bank's partnership with the World Food Program links their food-for-work community infrastructure programs to Bank follow-up investments. The Bank has a Memorandum of Understanding with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees covering operations in post-conflict areas. In addition, there is Bank-World Health Organization (WHO) cooperation on WHO's "Roll Back Malaria" campaign. The Bank is a major financier for the UN Special Initiative for Africa, and is cooperating with the Food and Agriculture Organization on a special food security program in Africa. At the operational level, there are hundreds of projects that are jointly financed and/or implemented by the Bank and the UN agencies in agriculture, industry, health, and education.

### **World Health Organization (WHO)**

The WHO, based in Geneva, was established in 1948 with the objective of "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health." After 51 years of activity, WHO was working in 1999 in close partnership with 191 member states and 2 associate members, many inter-

governmental agencies, more than 180 nongovernmental organizations, and nearly 1,200 leading health-related institutions around the world designated as “WHO collaborating centers.”

During 1999, U.S. representatives participated in meetings of the World Health Assembly, the WHO Executive Board, regional committees for the Americas, the Western Pacific, and Europe, and the Governing Council of the International Agency for Research on Cancer. U.S. officials also participated in meetings of the management committees of WHO’s major voluntarily funded programs, a working group beginning negotiations on a new tobacco-control convention, and the governing body of the Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), which is cosponsored by WHO and six other agencies. Within the WHO staff, there were more American citizens in professional posts than citizens of any other country. At year’s end, Americans held the senior posts of executive director of the communicable diseases cluster, legal counsel, director of internal audit and oversight, and director of the division of personnel.

This was WHO’s first full year under the leadership of Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Prime Minister of Norway, who was elected by the World Health Assembly in May 1998. U.S. officials continued to support the wide-ranging reforms being implemented by Dr. Brundtland, including the refocusing of both the WHO organizational structure and the biennial budget along the lines of nine “clusters” of activity. At the same time, U.S. officials pointed out instances in which it appeared specific important programs were receiving less attention than they deserved. In general, throughout the year, Dr. Brundtland received high praise from WHO member states and from numerous outside observers, including visitors from the U.S. Congress, in particular for the fresh approaches and new enthusiasm she had introduced to WHO.

The chief substantive action of the year was the decision of the Assembly to create a process that could lead to adoption of a framework convention on tobacco control by the year 2003. The U.S. delegation told the Assembly that the United States shared its concern for harm caused by tobacco and applauded WHO for its leadership to address this problem. As a result of this decision, a U.S. Government interagency group was established, under leadership of the White House Domestic Policy Council staff, to set the parameters of the U.S. negotiating position on the proposed convention. A U.S. delegation was active in the first meeting of a working group, held in Geneva on October 25–29.

The Assembly also reviewed a recommendation from the 1996 Assembly that the remaining acknowledged stocks of smallpox virus be destroyed in June 1999. Prior to the convening of the 1999 Assembly, the United States made known a decision by President Clinton that the United States preferred retention of the virus, rather than destruction, in order to

permit further research on it. After lengthy negotiations in Geneva, the Assembly adopted a resolution that “strongly affirms the decision of previous Assemblies that the remaining stocks of variola (smallpox) virus should be destroyed” and decided to authorize retention of the virus “up to not later than 2002 and subject to annual review” by the Assembly. The Director General was asked to create a new group of experts to guide research on the virus, and the group held its first meeting in December.

The Assembly gave extended attention to Dr. Brundtland’s new program entitled “Roll Back Malaria,” as well as to polio eradication and HIV/AIDS. The Assembly also approved a resolution on WHO’s “revised drug strategy” after several meetings led to revision of the text that had been first introduced in 1998. The original text, which had been very contentious, had contained negative references to global trade agreements, particularly the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights; it also had contained suggestions that countries need not honor patent obligations. Eventually, there was a consensus on a text that eliminated unacceptable language. The United States said it was pleased that Dr. Brundtland and her staff helped to stimulate this consensus. During the year, Dr. Brundtland also initiated her plan to develop a new dialogue with all interested parties, including industry, on issues relating to pharmaceuticals and infant formula. The United States succeeded in having WHO organize a review of the guidelines utilized by WHO’s Expert Committee on Drug Dependence; in the course of the year, a working group met to revise those guidelines for later review by the Executive Board. The United States had argued that this review was necessary because of apparent confusion over procedures for imposing limits on the availability of pharmaceutical products under three UN drug-control conventions.

The Assembly spent most of its time debating the proposed WHO budget for 2000–2001. The Director General had proposed a budget with an increase of \$25.3 million, but the United States and many other Western countries said they could accept only a budget with “zero nominal growth” (one that remained at the same level as the 1998–1999 budget). Most developing countries supported the proposed increase, and some requested even higher allocations.

After extended negotiation, the Assembly accepted a no-increase budget, but on the condition that \$15 million in WHO’s miscellaneous income, separate from the regular budget, be allocated to high-priority programs such as malaria, tobacco control, polio eradication, and tuberculosis. The resolution also asked the Director General to identify “efficiency savings” of 2–3 percent that could be allocated to high-priority programs, and asked for a study of WHO’s financial rules governing key issues such as the operation of the working capital fund and provisions for

internal borrowing in the event of a shortfall in the payment of assessments. The new budget for 2000–2001 amounted to \$842,654,000, the same level as in the two preceding biennial budget periods. U.S. assessments in each year of the biennium, at 25 percent of the budget, were set at \$108,108,855, after credit adjustments. During the 1998–1999 biennium, the United States also made voluntary contributions to WHO programs of about \$40 million per year; most of these funds came from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

U.S. reform initiatives within WHO in 1999 included efforts to persuade WHO and its member states to take steps that would permit U.S. certification of the “benchmarks” included in the U.S. legislation and thereby allow payment of U.S. arrears in WHO and other agencies. At year’s end, the United States owed \$35.7 million in arrears from prior years. U.S. representatives gave special emphasis to the benchmarks related to the scale of assessments, internal oversight, and evaluation.

Although supporting reform, the United States was not pleased with a set of seven amendments to the WHO constitution proposed by the Executive Board, and in May 1999 it persuaded the Assembly to reject those proposals. The proposals included new penalties for late payment of assessments and qualifications for membership on the Executive Board, both of which appeared intended to limit U.S. participation. Dr. Brundtland joined delegates in arguing that there was no need at the moment to amend the WHO constitution.

In promotion of more rapid turnover of individuals in WHO elected positions, the Executive Board had decided in 1997 and 1998 to apply a limit to the terms of office of the Director General and WHO’s regional directors. The new policy provided for a five–year term, renewable once, but not applying to the incumbent at the time the new rule was adopted. In 1999, following up on those decisions, the United States persuaded the Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to amend the PAHO constitution so that the same rules would apply to the election of the Director of PAHO, effective with the election in 2002. As a result, this two–term limit now applies to all elected positions within the WHO structure.

In regard to Taiwan, as in the two previous years, the 1999 Assembly took no action on an effort to insert on the agenda an item for discussion of observer status for Taiwan. The initiative was once again undertaken by several countries that have diplomatic relations with Taiwan. Although there is no provision in the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure for the conferring of observer status, it is understood that this can be achieved only if it is approved by a majority of the members present and voting. Delegates privately discussed a previous occasion on which the issue was put to a vote in the Assembly and the proposal for a new agenda item on Taiwan

was overwhelmingly rejected. In that light, the Assembly's General Committee, after a brief discussion, decided without a vote not to recommend inclusion of this new agenda item. In the Assembly plenary, under a previously agreed scenario, there were two speakers on each side of the issue, after which the Assembly president said it appeared the plenary had agreed with the recommendation that there be no new agenda item, and it was so decided without a vote. [Note: In a report submitted to Congress in January 2000, following up on a legislative request in 1999, the Administration reported on its efforts to support ways for the people in Taiwan to benefit from—as well as contribute to—the work of the WHO.]

The Assembly gave only brief attention to the long-standing agenda item on “health conditions of, and assistance to, the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine.” A resolution highly critical of Israel was introduced by a number of Arab states and Zimbabwe. The United States called for a vote on the resolution in a committee of the whole because of its political elements, but the resolution was adopted by a vote of 60 in favor, 3 opposed (U.S., Israel, Palau), with 21 abstaining. In the plenary, there was no call for a repeated vote. However, the U.S. delegation pointed out it had provided more than \$50 million in assistance to the Palestinians for child survival and maternal health programs and was continuing to do so. It said a WHO resolution should have concentrated on health, but instead had taken up inappropriate political issues.

### **Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)**

The Directing Council of PAHO convened in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in September. Representatives of all 38 PAHO member states participated, mostly at the ministerial level. U.S. officials were active in that meeting as well as in meetings of the PAHO Executive Committee and its Subcommittee on Planning and Programming.

The Directing Council discussed and adopted resolutions on several pressing health issues, including tobacco control, health care reform, HIV/AIDS, safe blood supply, immunizations, and persistent organic pollutants.

The Council also approved for 2000–2001 a PAHO budget of \$177,136,000, an increase of 5.1 percent over the budget for 1998–1999. The United States, which pays 59.44 percent of the PAHO budget, objected to the increase and urged that the Council approve a new budget at the same level as the previous one. The U.S. delegation called for a vote on the budget, but the PAHO Director's proposal was approved by a vote of 32 in favor and 1 (U.S.) opposed. The U.S. assessment for each year of the new biennium was set at \$52,258,062, after credit adjustments. U.S. Government arrears from prior years amounted to \$14,941,094 at the end of the year. Following the vote, the PAHO Director thanked the mem-

ber states for a show of confidence in him and thanked the United States for its support of PAHO and its continued generosity through the provision of voluntary contributions.

### **International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)**

The Governing Council of IARC, a subsidiary of WHO, met at IARC headquarters in Lyon, France, in May. The 18-member Council decided to suspend participation of the Russian Federation, which had not made any payment to IARC since the breakup of the Soviet Union and was deeply in arrears.

In 1998, the Council had offered Russia, at its request, a payment plan under which it could eliminate its arrears and maintain its participation in IARC. However, at its 1999 meeting, the IARC Director, Dr. Paul Kleihues (Germany), told the Council that Russia had rejected the offer and said it was unable to pay. The Council then adopted a resolution stressing that suspension of participation was taken “as a very exceptional measure” until the Russian government requested resumption of participation and agreed to a plan regarding its extensive arrears. The resolution also said the Council took this action “with regret” and noted the desire of Russia to resume full participation “as soon as the stabilization of the financial and economic conditions so permits.”

The Governing Council also approved a new IARC budget for 2000–2001 of \$36,880,665. This was a decrease of 1.51 percent from the budget established for 1998–1999. One component of the budget was real program growth of 4.15 percent, which was attributed entirely to the contributions of two new IARC members, Brazil and Argentina, for one half of their first direct assessment for the regular budget. Another component was a budget reduction attributed to the deletion of the share of the Russian Federation. There was also a cost increase of 6.03 percent, partly offset by exchange rate gains of 4.91 percent. Director Kleihues said this situation presented an outstanding opportunity for the Agency—real growth in the budget combined with an overall nominal decline and a reduction in the assessments for all member states.

All delegations except the United States supported this proposal. The U.S. delegate said that—leaving aside the real growth in the budget attributable to Brazil and Argentina, which was acceptable, and leaving aside the deletion of the Russian share—the budget should reflect “zero nominal growth,” and it did not do so because the cost increases were not fully covered by the exchange rate gains. The Council approved the budget, but the United States asked that the record show it had disassociated itself from this result. Under the new budget, the United States assessment was set at \$1,673,482 in 2000 (9.29 percent), and \$1,670,444 in 2001 (9.115 percent). At the end of 1999, U.S. arrears in IARC amounted to \$352,126.

### **Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)**

UNAIDS began formal operations on January 1, 1996. Cosponsors are WHO, the UN Development Program, the UN International Drug Control Program, the UN Children's Fund, the UN Population Fund, the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, and the World Bank. The Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations was led by WHO Director General Brundtland during the year.

The 22-member Program Coordinating Board (PCB) met in June in Geneva. United States representatives attended the meeting as observers under the PCB rotational membership plan. The PCB approved a unified budget and workplan for 2000–2001 at the level of \$140 million, the same level as the revised 1998–1999 biennial budget. The Board agreed that, while implementing the workplan containing over 13 specific program elements, the secretariat should ensure that sufficient attention is paid to integration of the chief cross-cutting themes—human rights, gender, and the greater involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS—in program efforts. The PCB agreed to reduce the operating reserve fund from \$33 million to \$25 million, since contributions to UNAIDS were more timely and cash flow problems had been eased. The purpose of the fund was to permit programs to be implemented in a timely way in advance of the receipt of contributions. The United States continued to be the major donor to UNAIDS, providing about 26 percent of the annual budget.

Following presentations by Dr. Peter Piot (Belgium), Executive Director of UNAIDS, the PCB discussed its concern that by the end of 1998 there were 33.4 million people living with HIV/AIDS, an increase of 10 percent since the end of 1997. AIDS had become the fourth leading cause of death in the world as a whole. The PCB also gave extensive consideration to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa, where AIDS had become the leading cause of death. It agreed that HIV/AIDS had become a true development crisis, reversing many of the developmental gains of the past decade. The Board expressed strong support for the International Partnership Against HIV/AIDS in Africa, being organized by the UN Secretary General, and agreed on the need for an immediate, intensified, and coordinated response. The Board also agreed that focus on Africa should not detract from activities in other affected regions.

### **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**

WIPO, with headquarters in Geneva, is one of the 16 specialized agencies of the UN system of organizations. It is responsible for the promotion of the protection of intellectual property throughout the world through cooperation among states, and for the administration of various multilateral treaties dealing with the legal and administrative aspects of intellec-

tual property. Intellectual property comprises two main branches: industrial property and copyright. Almost 90 percent of the countries in the world belong to WIPO. This is a clear reflection of the importance and relevance attached to the work of the Organization.

**Administrative Organization.** There are 171 parties to the WIPO Convention. WIPO administers 17 intergovernmental “unions” or treaties, each founded on a multilateral treaty. The two principal treaties are the Paris and Berne Conventions (157 and 142 parties, respectively). These treaties, and a number of others, provide for the establishment of an “International Bureau” or secretariat. The International Bureau operates under the direction of WIPO member states through a General Assembly that meets in ordinary session every second year. The principal administrative organs of the Paris and Berne Unions are the assemblies of each union, from which all the member states elect executive committees. The combination of these two committees constitutes WIPO’s Coordination Committee. It meets annually and is entrusted with the normal tasks of such a governing body, including the review and implementation of WIPO’s biennial program and budget. Member states contribute to six of the WIPO unions, known as the “Program Unions.”

**WIPO Governing Bodies.** WIPO held its 34<sup>th</sup> biennial General Assemblies of Member States in Geneva on September 20–29. One of the most important issues under consideration was WIPO’s proposed budget for the 2000–2001 biennium. WIPO Director General, Dr. Kamil Idris, proposed an 8.1 percent increase in the budget, from approximately \$253 million to approximately \$273 million. In disassociating itself from the consensus, the U.S. Delegation asserted that there had already been a large increase in the budget over the previous two years and that the U.S. Government policy was to restrict the budgets of all UN agencies to zero nominal growth. WIPO is the only UN agency to register a “profit” from its operations. The budget increase was eventually approved, notwithstanding this lack of consensus. A number of states sought to focus more attention on financial management of WIPO toward a more results-oriented budget and more member state involvement.

WIPO derives about 80 percent of its funds by collecting fees from those filing patent applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), an international agreement that streamlines the filing of patent applications in multiple jurisdictions. Member states agreed to reduce by 13 percent the fees paid by individual PCT applicants for the 2000–2001 biennium. However, WIPO continues to generate more revenues than expenditures, indicating that PCT fees could drop further. The United States is leading a reform effort aimed at aligning WIPO’s expenditures to PCT revenues and a cost-based fee structure. This is important for U.S.

consumers since almost 40 percent of PCT applications come from the United States.

At the 1999 meeting of the governing bodies, members also agreed to the establishment of several informal working groups to study whether there should be an amendment to the WIPO Constitution regarding the structure of the decision-making bodies, which meet biennially to approve the program and budget, to study whether the WIPO Constitution should be amended to restrict the Director General to two terms, and to consider the request by a number of Lusophone countries to include Portuguese as a working language of WIPO.

Members approved non-binding guidelines intended to help protect “well-known” trademarks. These guidelines will help national authorities identify well-known marks, the scope of protection that should be afforded to such marks, whether another mark is in conflict with a well-known mark, and the procedures for invalidating a conflicting mark’s registration.

**WIPO-WTO Cooperation.** On January 1, 1996, an agreement between WIPO and the World Trade Organization entered into force. It provides for cooperation concerning implementation of the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, namely, notification of laws and regulations, communication of emblems of states and international intergovernmental organizations under Article 6 of the Paris Convention, as well as legal-technical assistance and technical cooperation in favor of developing countries relating to the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.

## **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**

The purposes of the WMO are to facilitate international cooperation in the establishment of networks of stations for making meteorological, hydrological, and other observations; and to promote the rapid exchange of meteorological information, the standardization of meteorological observations, and the uniform publication of observations and statistics. It furthers the application of meteorology to aviation, shipping, water problems, and agriculture. It promotes operational hydrology and encourages research and training in meteorology. WMO membership now includes 179 states and 6 member territories—all of which maintain their own meteorological and hydrological services.

WMO’s major scientific and technical programs include the World Weather Watch, which offers up to the minute world-wide weather information through member-operated observation systems and telecommunication links with four polar-orbiting and five geostationary satellites, and about 10,000 land observation and 7,000 ship stations, and 300 moored and drifting buoys carrying automatic weather stations.

The World Meteorological Congress, which is the supreme body of WMO, meets every four years. It determines policies, approves the program and budget, and adopts regulations. The Executive Council is composed of 36 members, including the President and three Vice-Presidents. It meets at least every year to prepare studies and recommendations for the Congress, to supervise the implementation of Congress resolutions and regulations, and to advise members of technical matters. Members are grouped in six regional associations (Africa, Asia, South America, North and Central America (of which the United States is a member), South-West Pacific, and Europe). Each of these meets every four years to coordinate meteorological and operational hydrological activities within their region and to examine questions referred to them by the Council. WMO has eight technical commissions responsible for the following: aeronautical meteorology, agricultural meteorology, atmospheric sciences, basic systems, climatology, hydrology, instruments and methods of observation, and marine meteorology. Each of them meets every four years. The Secretariat, headed by the Secretary General, serves as the administrative, documentation, and information center of the organization.

**WMO Council.** At the 13<sup>th</sup> WMO Congress in May, the U.S. Delegation led a successful effort to oppose a WMO Secretariat initiative for the 2001–2005 quadrennium that called for a zero real growth budget. The Congress approved a zero nominal growth budget. The Congress approved a Consolidated Program and budget of 252.3 million Swiss francs for the 13<sup>th</sup> financial period, i.e., 2000–2003.

The Congress, noting the expanding need for training in all national meteorological and hydrological services, highlighted the advantage of computer based training, especially via the Internet, and called for a stronger emphasis on the development and application of this method of training. The United States supported this initiative.

The Congress instructed the Executive Council to conduct an assessment of the functioning and effectiveness of the four sub-regional offices established since the 12<sup>th</sup> Congress in 1995 before new ones are established. The Congress reviewed, but did not reach consensus on, a recommendation that two of its eight technical commissions be merged. The Congress, however, decided to continue to look at possible avenues for restructuring over the next four years. The Congress, in addition, agreed over the next four years to hold a meeting of permanent representatives from countries operating meteorological satellites as well as satellite operators to discuss a converged polar orbiting satellite system and the expected impact on weather, water, and climate services.

The United States and other member states successfully fended off an effort to increase the number of Vice-Presidents for the WMO. The Con-

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gress approved a compromise resolution calling for a three-term limit for the position of WMO Secretary General. This resolution will not become operational until the end of 2003.

The 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the Executive Council (EC) was held immediately after the Congress. The EC established working groups and the program and structure for the next financial period—including the program and budget for 2000–2001.